

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/027,308	LEVARIO, FREDDIE
	Examiner Essama Omgba	Art Unit 3726

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the amendments filed October 18, 2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-33.
3.  The drawings filed on 21 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 10/27/05.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gene Arant on October 26, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims

Claim 20: line 4, "the" has been deleted,  
line 5, "the" first occurrence has been deleted,  
line 9, "the" first occurrence has been changed to --an inner--,  
line 13, "the" first occurrence has been changed to --an--,  
line 14, "the" first and second occurrences have been deleted,  
line 19, "the" second occurrence has been changed to --an--,  
line 21, --when the pipe sections are coupled in abutting and  
sealing relationship-- has been inserted after "section".

Claim 21: line 1, "Apparatus" has been changed to --A joint mechanism--,  
line 4, "the" second occurrence has been changed to --an--, . . .

Claim 22: line 3, "the" first occurrence has been deleted.

Claim 24: line 3, "the" first occurrence has been deleted.

Claim 25: line 1, "furkther" has been changed to --further--.

Claim 26: line 1, "Apparatus" has been changed to --A joint mechanism--, line 4, "the" second occurrence has been changed to --an--.

Claim 27: line 4, "the" has been changed to --an--, line 11, "the" first occurrence has been deleted, line 13, "the" first occurrence has been deleted, line 16, "the" second occurrence has been changed to --an--, line 18, --when the pipe sections are coupled in abutting and sealing relationship-- has been inserted after "section".

Claim 28: line 1, "Apparatus" has been changed to --A joint mechanism--, line 4, "the" second occurrence has been changed to --an--.

Claim 30: line 2, "the" has been deleted.

Claim 31: line 3, "the" first occurrence has been deleted.

Claim 32: line 1, "The" has been changed to --A--.

line 2, "the" has been deleted, line 6, "the" has been deleted, line 9, "the" first occurrence has been changed to --an--, line 18, --coupling the pipe sections in abutting and sealing relationship,-- has been inserted before "leaving".

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach a joint mechanism and a method of joining and securely sealing together ends of pipe sections wherein when the pipe sections are coupled in abutting and

sealing relationship, an annular space is provided about a coupling ring, the annular space permitting fluid or gas that may be moving within a liner of one pipe section to flow around an outer circumference of the coupling ring and into a liner of the other pipe section, these in combination with the rest of the limitations in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Essama Omgbala whose telephone number is (571) 272-4532. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-6:30, 1st Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on (571) 272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Essama Omgba  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3726

eo  
October 27, 2005